



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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Golden siblings receive national leadership award for radon awareness work

DENVER – Christina Bear, 14, and her brother, Eric, 12, have been honored with the 2012 Youth Leadership Award for their efforts to raise public awareness about the dangers of radon. Christina and Eric, children of Norse Bear and Raneen Sheno of Golden, have been outspoken environmental activists since 2010 when they launched the Radon Awareness Project (<http://radonawarenessproject.com>).

The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) presented the award at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Sept. 7. The Children's Environmental Health Network is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental hazards and promote a healthier environment.

"Christina and Eric have been unwavering champions of radon awareness in Colorado," said Chrystine Kelley, radon program manager for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "Christina won the state radon poster contest in 2008, and Eric won the following year. Since then, they've made radon safety their cause. They've spread the word on television, created a website for their Radon Action Project, spoken on the Capitol steps, appeared before city councils to suggest resolutions, and even written a radon rap. Their dedication to environmental health and safety is truly inspiring."

Long-term exposure to radon – a colorless, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas caused by the decay of naturally occurring uranium in soil – is the most frequent cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. Exposure to radon is responsible for approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year. Radon is particularly prevalent in Colorado, which has large deposits of natural uranium.

Editors Note: Contact Christina and Eric at info@radonawarenessproject.com.